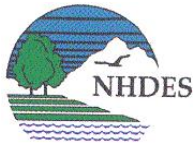


News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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DES and USGS complete stream gage installations for 2008

Stream gages provide essential data for managing New Hampshire's water resources

Concord NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services announced today that under a close partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), seven new stream gages were installed in the past few months on the Isinglass, Suncook, Souhegan, Piscataquog, Lamprey, Exeter, and Cackermouth Rivers. Stream gages assist water managers in making operational decisions to reduce floods as well as to deal with water requirements for municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes, demands for hydroelectric power generation, and to manage fish and wildlife habitat.

Stream gage data are vital to the state's economic viability and environmental protection. DES Commissioner Tom Burack pointed out that, "Stream gages are essential tools and resources for saving millions of dollars in property damage, preventing loss of human life, protecting drinking water, aquatic life, recreational activities, and establishing and administering protected instream flows on the state's designated rivers."

In 2006, a Stream Gage Task Force (SGTF) was formed by DES to assess the ever-increasing demands on the water resources in the state for multiple uses. The SGTF identified critical watersheds that needed gages. Many of these gages are used to alert officials of potential flooding. Flood forecasting allows for timely warnings that save lives and decrease property damage.

In 2009, eight additional new gages are slated for installment on the Cold, Swift, Saco, Ashuelot, Upper Ammonoosuc, and Contoocook Rivers. Funding for the gages comes from a Capital Appropriation from the State of New Hampshire, the Federal-State Cooperative Program of the USGS, and from the Emergency Management Performance Grant issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"These new stream gages demonstrate the commitment of the State of New Hampshire to improving public safety and protecting its water resources," stated Keith Robinson, Director of the USGS New Hampshire-Vermont Water Science Center. "As the primary agency nationwide for monitoring river flows, the USGS looks forward to operating these new gages with DES for many years to come," he added.

For more information contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services River Management Program at 271-8801, the USGS at 226-7808, or visit these websites: www.des.nh.gov, www.nh.water.usgs.gov. To view real-time data from these stream gages, go to: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nh/nwis/current/?type=flow> or <http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/>.

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